

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CASABL 00392 211225Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
-----070545 211506Z /43

R 211015Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5371
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 0392

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BTRA, MO
SUBJ: VISIT OF MOROCCAN TRADE DELEGATION TO U.S.

REF: USDOC 3965 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE HAD FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH MR. HASSAN YACOUBI-SOUSSANE, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE MOROCCAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, ABOUT TIMING OF PROPOSED VISIT OF MOROCCAN TRADE DELEGATION TO U.S. HE REITERATED MOROCCAN'S DESIRE NOT RPT NOT TO BE PART OF THE COMBINED ARAB DELEGATION, DESPITE HIGH LEVEL COURTESIES WHICH DELEGATION MAY BE OFFERED. MOROCCANS CONTINUE TO PREFER MAY 13-27 TIME FRAME; A NUMBER OF MEMBERS FIND THAT JUNE MISSION WOULD CONFLICT WITH OTHER COMMITMENTS. ACCORDINGLY WE WILL PROCEED ON ASSUMPTION THAT THESE DATES ARE FINAL.

2. FYI: MOROCCANS FRANKLY ARE LEERY OF TOO CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH LARGER ARAB MISSION IN THEIR TRIP TO U.S. THE FEAR THAT THEY WILL BE LOST IN THE SHUFFLE AS JUST ANOTHER ARAB COUNTRY, AND A POOR ONE (I.E. WITHOUT OIL) AT THAT. IN THE PAST THEY HAVE FELT THAT THEY ALWAYS COME OUT ON THE SHORT END OF THE STICK WHEN GROUPED WITH BUSINESSMEN FROM THE GULF, WHERE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CASABL 00392 211225Z

RETURNS ON INVESTMENT ARE SEEN TO BE SO MUCH HIGHER. ANOTHER REASON FOR MOROCCANS NOT WISHING TO BE GROUPED TOGETHER WITH ALL THE ARABS IS THEIR HELPFUL POSTURE WITH REGARD TO THE ARAB BOYCOTT. SINCE MOROCCO DOES NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE BOYCOTT, MOROCCANS PREFER TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN DISCUSSIONS OF BOYCOTT WHICH LIKELY TO BE MAJOR TOPIC WITH LARGER GROUP. END FYI.

3. WE HAVE AGAIN STRESSED TO MOROCCAN CHAMBER NEED OF THEIR PROVIDING US WITH INDIVIDUAL NAMES AND INFORMATION ON THEIR SPECIAL INTERESTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WOULD APPRECIATE, HOWEVER, YOUR UNDERTAKING AS MUCH ADVANCE PLANNING AS POSSIBLE. MOROCCAN CHAMBER PLANS TRIP ORGANIZATION MEETING ABOUT APRIL 3. IT WILL BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IF WE ARE ABLE TO GIVE THEM GENERAL OUTLINE OF ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR THEIR STAY IN THE UNITED STATES PRIOR TO THEIR MEETING. MONJO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CASABL00392
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780124-0501
Format: TEL
From: CASABLANCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780344/aaaabkxu.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 75db60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3260300
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF MOROCCAN TRADE DELEGATION TO U.S.
TAGS: BTRA, MO
To: COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/75db60c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014